

School Committee
North Adams Public Schools
North Adams, Massachusetts

Regular Meeting of 05 April 2016

A regular meeting of the School Committee of the North Adams Public Schools was held on Tuesday, 05 April 2016, in the Offices of the Superintendent, 37 Main Street, Suite 200, North Adams.

Members Present: Mayor Richard Alcombright, Chairperson
Tara Jacobs
Heather Boulger
Nicholas Fahey
Mark P. Moulton
John Hockridge

Missing: Karen Bond

Also Present: James E. Montepare, Superintendent
Ellen Sutherland, Assistant to the Superintendent
John Franzoni, Principal
Shelley Fachini, Principal
Sandra Cote, Principal
Amy Meehan, Principal
Diane Ryczek, Coordinator of Mentoring and Assistive Technology
Nancy Ziter, Business Manager
Amanda Michaels, Student Council Representative
Annie Pecor, Teacher
Lindsay Osterhoudt, Math Coach
Adam Shanks, The Berkshire Eagle
Tammy Daniels, iBerkshires (arrived at 6:12 p.m.)
Citizens

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Alcombright called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

HEARING OF VISITORS

There were no visitors to be heard.

READING AND APPROVAL OF RECORDS

A. Minutes of 01 March 2016 Meeting

Minutes of the 01 March 2016 meeting were read and at the conclusion of which it was

MOVED by Jacobs, then withdrawn

Heather Boulger noted that she has abstained from voting on the personnel of 01 March 2016. The correction was recorded.

MOVED by Jacobs, SECONDED by
Hockridge to approve the amended
minutes of 01 March 2016.

VOTE ON THE MOTION	Ayes	6	<u>Minutes</u>
	Nays	0	Action No.
			5927

MOTION CARRIED

B. Balance Sheet

The Superintendent reviewed the balance sheet with the Committee. No action was required.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications to be heard.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

A. Personnel

Appointments:

Deberah Lemaire, TEACHER ASSISTANT, Greylock Elementary School, effective 22 February 2016.

Megan Benoit, TEACHER ASSISTANT, North Adams Prekindergarten Program, effective 07 March 2016.

Joanne Dellacato, TEACHER ASSISTANT, Drury High School, effective 21 March 2016.

Amanda Bona, Tina Lapine, Heidi Braman, SUBSTITUTE TEACHER ASSISTANTS, for the District, effective 18 March 2016.

Jerome Baran, SUBSTITUTE TEACHER/SUBSTITUTE PONY DRIVER for the District, effective 18 February 2016.

Aldonna Girouard, Kellie Burns, Anne French, Molly Meczywor, ENHANCEMENT DEVELOPERS at Drury High School, effective 08 March 2016.

Tracy Piekos, KINDERCAMP ACADEMIC LEADER for the 21st Century Summer Program at Brayton Elementary School, effective 05 July 2016.

Elizabeth Elder, Ashley Riordan, Elizabeth Patenaude, Marie McCarron, Jacob Elder, James Holmes, Lynn Hayden and Susan Oliveri, SCIENCE CAMP ACADEMIC LEADERS for the 21st Century Summer Program at Brayton Elementary School, effective 05 July 2016.

Tammy Dix, Pamela Martischnig, Cheryl Witherell, Sophia Oliveri, Tina Radlowski, Shari Beauchemin, Marcia Farinon, Allison Meehan and Karen Cooper, SCIENCE CAMP ASSISTANTS for the 21st Century Summer Program at Brayton Elementary School, effective 05 July 2016.

Jenny Moulton, Denise Morin ENRICHMENT LEADERS for the 21st Century Summer Program at Brayton Elementary School, effective 05 July 2016.

William Pringle, 2nd SHIFT CUSTODIAN, Greylock Elementary School, effective 21 March 2016.

Angela Lind, MCKINNEY VENTO HOMELESS EDUCATION CASE MANAGER, for the District, effective 04 April 2016.

Resignations:

Christine Joslin, ASSISTANT, RECREATIONAL ARTS/CRAFTS FOR THE GREENHOUSES, effective 24 February 2016.

Darlene LaPierre, 2nd SHIFT CUSTODIAN, Greylock Elementary School, effective 23 March 2016.

Emily Wood, KINDERGARTEN TEACHER, Greylock Elementary School, effective 25 March 2016.

Kevin Hartmann, SCIENCE TEACHER, Drury High School, effective at the conclusion of the 2015-2016 academic year.

David Nicholas III, BUS MONITOR, for the District, effective 24 March 2016.

Recommended Action: Motion to file.

MOVED by Hockridge, SECONDED by Boulger
to place the personnel information on file.

VOTE ON THE MOTION	Ayes	6	<u>Personnel</u>
	Nays	0	Action No.
			5928

MOTION CARRIED

B. Tuition Rates

Superintendent Montepare recommended that the School Committee approve the following tuition rates for the 2016-2017 school year: high school, \$11,259; elementary school, \$11,259; special education, \$20,293; E3, Autism, Transition Programs, \$27,059. These rates represent a three percent increase from last year.

MOVED by Boulger, SECONDED by Hockridge
to approve the proposed tuition rates for the
2016-2017 school year.

VOTE ON THE MOTION	Ayes	5	<u>Tuition Rates 2016-2017</u>
	Nays	0	Action No.
	Abstention*	1	5929

*Nicholas Fahey

MOTION CARRIED

C. 2016-2017 School Calendar

The Superintendent reviewed the proposed 2016-2017 school calendar preferred by a majority of the professional staff. It was

MOVED by Boulger, SECONDED by Hockridge
to approve the proposed school calendar
for the 2016-2017 school year.

VOTE ON THE MOTION	Ayes	6	<u>School Calendar</u>
	Nays	0	Action No.
			5930

MOTION CARRIED

D. School Improvement Plans

Superintendent Montepare stated that the principals would present their respective School Improvement Plans

Shelley Fachini presented the Colegrove Park Elementary School Improvement Plan. Heather Boulger stated that this plan included more data than previous plans and went beyond academic learning. Tara Jacobs asked about the goals set by the state and how reachable they are. Principal Fachini stated that they were ‘pretty high’ and ‘we don’t have any control of what the state sets for targets’. John Hockridge expressed his surprise at having 25% of the Colegrove population in foster care. Chairperson Alcombright inquired about the special education population and Principal Fachini noted that they were ‘all over the map’ with 50% in a pull out model but they are working in doing more push-in. It was

MOVED by Boulger, SECONDED by Moulton
to approve the 2015-2016 Colegrove Park Elementary
School Improvement Plan.

VOTE ON THE MOTION	Ayes	6	<u>Colegrove Park School Improvement Plan</u>
	Nays	0	Action No.
			5931

MOTION CARRIED

John Franzoni presented the Brayton Elementary School Improvement Plan and highlighted the good work of the Instructional Leadership Team (ILT). He stated that the first year was a learning experience for the team and the past two years have been very successful. In fact, some of the members of the ILT were asked to speak at District and School Assistance Center (DSAC) events and have led professional development. Principal Franzoni spoke to the progress Brayton has made with technology and the iPads stating that Brayton has a head start in the younger grades because Williams College students have been working with us. Principal Franzoni stated that the goals set by the state “are not realistic and do not take into account our population and needs but we are making good progress and the goals keep us motivated.”

MOVED by Hockridge, SECONDED by Boulger
to approve the 2015-2016 Brayton School
Improvement Plan.

VOTE ON THE MOTION	Ayes	6	<u>Brayton School Improvement Plan</u>
	Nays	0	Action No.
			5932

MOTION CARRIED

Sandra Cote presented the Greylock Elementary School Improvement Plan and echoed the frustration with the goals set by the state. Principal Cote spoke to the challenge of having Greylock’s population increased by 100 students with the redistricting. Tara Jacobs stated she was very impressed with the achievement goals.

Chairperson Alcombright asked about setting goals and a discussion ensued.

Principal Franzoni stated that he has worked at all four schools, and Silvio O. Conte Middle School when it was open, and in his opinion that the numbers do not measure the dedication of the educators and the positive connections made with the students.

Superintendent Montepare spoke to the amount of time and meetings that are required for 400+ special education students in the district.

It was

MOVED by Moulton, SECONDED by Fahey
to approve the 2015-2016 Greylock School
Improvement Plan.

VOTE ON THE MOTION	Ayes 6	<u>Greylock School Improvement Plan</u>
	Nays 0	Action No.
		5933

MOTION CARRIED

Amy Meehan presented the Drury High School Improvement Plan noting that the high school is different from the elementary schools in that Drury has different data points that can be evaluated such as dropout rates, SAT, scores, etc. Principal Meehan stated that Drury has had some shining moments but also acknowledged that there are areas that need improvements. They are still trying to figure out the eighth grade population. Drury has seen the best graduation rates ever (90%) and a big jump in the SAT scores over time. They have reviewed supports and interventions in place for students (learning center) and the work done via the Mass Grad grant which began in 2010 and is now supported by the regular budget.

John Hockridge highlighted some of the noteworthy achievements listed in the SIP and Heather Boulger stated that she appreciated the appendix.

Chairperson Alcombright inquired what was driving the SAT scores and Principal Meehan stated that Drury works to place students in the most appropriate and rigorous courses that they can handle noting that they are seeing more special education and 504 students in AP classes. There are more students taking the SATs and teachers are making sure they have supports in place and the students are held to high standards. This year, Drury has many students dually enrolled at MCLA.

MOVED by Boulger, SECONDED by Hockridge
to approve the 2015-2016 Drury High School
Improvement Plan.

VOTE ON THE MOTION	Ayes 6	<u>Drury High School Improvement Plan</u>
	Nays 0	Action No.
		5934

MOTION CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to be discussed.

REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMITTEE

Heather Boulger:

- Congratulations to Molly Moulton for being named to the Western Mass Hall of Fame (basketball) and Alex Griffiths for earning a championship as a junior (wrestling co-op)
- Destination Drury will take place on April 11th
- Kindergarten Registration is April 13 and 14

Amanda Michaels informed the Committee that Amadeus would be performed April 28-30.

Chairperson Alcombright stated that Kathy Atwood and Betsy Elder brought their third grade students to visit him at his office. The students have been working on letter writing skills and delivered letters to him. Chairperson Alcombright shared excerpts from the letters with the Committee and thanked all the teachers and administrators for their hard work.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution: Request for Full Funding and Adoption of the Recommendations of the Foundation Budget Review Commission

John Hockridge reviewed the resolution with the Committee and explained that much of the foundation budget was adopted in 1993 and most of it has not changed since then.

Heather Boulger stated that a greater impact would be made if the Committee sent a letter speaking to our needs. Superintendent Montepare suggested that Mrs. Boulger author the letter.

MOVED by Moulton, SECONDED by Boulger
to sign the resolution.

VOTE ON THE MOTION	Ayes 6	<u>Resolution: Request for Full Funding and</u>
	Nays 0	<u>Adoption of the Recommendations of the</u>
		<u>Foundation Budget Review Commission</u>
		Action No.
		5935

MOTION CARRIED

B. Resolution: Request Not to Raise the Existing Cap on Charter Schools in Massachusetts

John Hockridge reviewed the resolution with the Committee. Heather Boulger stated she was not comfortable with this and wanted to know how it affected us, asking if it was just for Berkshire County or all of Massachusetts. John Hockridge stated that it was for Massachusetts and that charter schools are targeted towards areas with more challenges—like North Adams.

Chairperson Alcombright stated that he has no qualms with alternative education but the funding formula for charter schools is flawed and that charter schools do not have school committees and budgets are not publicly approved.

Mark Moulton echoed Chairperson Alcombright statement that there is a need for alternative education and questioned whether or not we should be focused on the funding issues.

Nicholas Fahey stated that he would be more comfortable with language expressing support of charter schools but not necessarily the funding.

Heather Boulger requested that the item be tabled so she could do her due diligence.

MOVED by Boulger, SECONDED by Fahey
to table the resolution until the May meeting

VOTE ON THE MOTION Ayes 6
 Nays 0

Resolution: Request Not to Raise the
Existing Cap on Charter Schools in
Massachusetts
Action No.
5936

MOTION CARRIED

A. MASC Update

John Hockridge updated the Committee on the work of the Berkshire County Education Task Force which now has a fully executed contract with the Donohue Institute and now is in phase two. The North Berkshire Shared Services Initiative has its first meeting in March. The website is Berkshireeducation.org

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Collective Bargaining

Chairperson Alcombright stated that the Committee would enter into Executive Session to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with the United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union (Teacher Assistants), with the North Adams Teachers Association and contract negotiations for an Interim Superintendent contract and would reconvene in Open Session

MOVED by Boulger, SECONDED by Moulton
to enter into executive session to discuss
collective bargaining.

VOTE ON THE MOTION Ayes 6
 Nays 0

Executive Session
Action No.
5937

Tara Jacobs	Yes
Nicholas Fahey	Yes
Heather Boulger	Yes
Mark Moulton	Yes
John Hockridge	Yes
Chairperson Alcombright	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

Executive Session started – 7:13 p.m.
Executive Session ended – 7:38 p.m.

Chairperson Alcombright announced that the Committee voted to approve a per diem rate for Superintendent Montepare for days worked. This rate was based on his current salary.

Chairperson Alcombright called for a vote on the Teacher Assistants collective bargaining agreement for 2015-2018

MOVED by Boulger, SECONDED by Jacobs
to approve the teacher assistant collective bargaining
agreement for 2015-2018.

VOTE ON THE MOTION	Ayes	6	<u>Teacher Assistant Contract</u>
	Nays	0	Action No.
			5938
Tara Jacobs	Yes		
Nicholas Fahey	Yes		
Heather Boulger	Yes		
Mark Moulton	Yes		
John Hockridge	Yes		
Chairperson Alcombright	Yes		

MOTION CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Alcombright indicated that there was no further business to come before the School Committee and called for a motion to adjourn. It was

MOVED by Moulton, SECONDED by Hockridge
that the meeting be adjourned.

VOTE ON THE MOTION	Ayes	6	<u>Adjournment</u>
	Nays	0	

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Karen Bond, Secretary
/es